

Creative Living

Mary Klemic editor/644-1100

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE



(O11D)

Art Beat

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

For information and reviews of musical performances, please turn to the Entertainment section.

The 24th annual Westacres Artists Market seeks applications from artists interested in exhibiting fine arts at the juried show May 2. The show is at the Westacres clubhouse in West Bloomfield.

Slide deadline is Sunday, March 1. There is no application fee. Accepted artists pay a 15-percent commission.

For an application form, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Jo Feathermaker, 3607 S. Elder Road, West Bloomfield 48324. Call 363-7717 or 360-2182 for more information.

A video, "Art of Indonesia: Tales from the Shadow World," will be shown at a meeting of the Michigan Oriental Art Society, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Troy Public Library, 510 W. Big Beaver. Members will share Indonesian artifacts.

The film will last 30 minutes, leaving plenty of time for viewing and discussing the textiles, puppets, metalwork and old or new examples of Indonesian arts and crafts brought in. The public may attend.

Author Ed McBain will be at the Birmingham Bookstore, 263 Pierce in Birmingham, at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24. He will be signing copies of "Kiss," his new novel of the 87th Precinct. Call the store at 647-2665 for information.

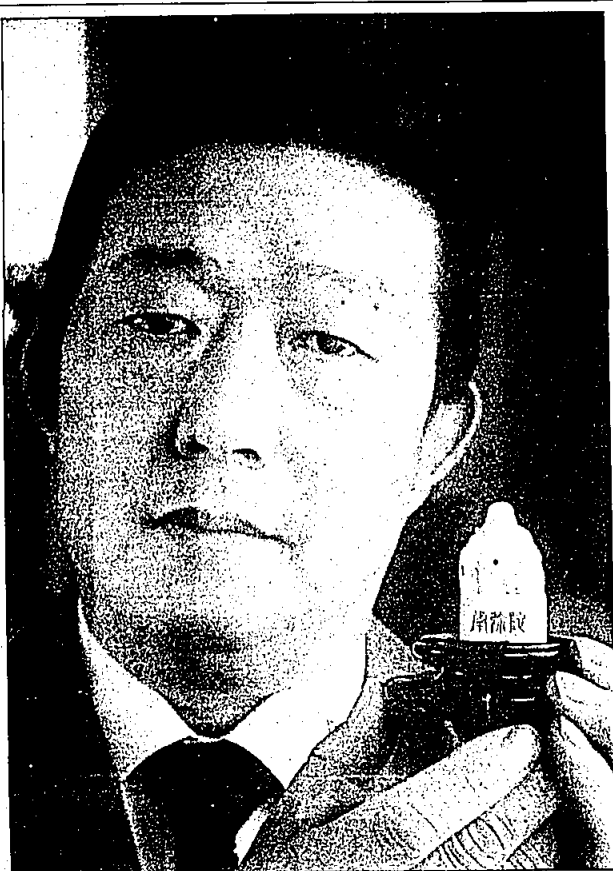
The South Oakland Art Association announces the annual spring art show and sale at Meadowbrook Mall, on the corner of Walton and Adams in Rochester Hills. The show will feature 30 artists and potters and run Feb. 23 through March 3. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Membership in the association is open to any artist. For more information on the show or membership, call Barbara Brown at 549-0855.

Todd Zellinger of Rochester, a jewelry and metals student at the Center for Creative Studies, recently won second prize in the National Student Sterling Design Competition for his salt and pepper shakers entry.

As an award winner, Zellinger's design was exhibited at Tiffany's in New York. Design, function and craftsmanship, equally weighed, were the key criteria of the judges.

"The originality of approach to function and derivation of the design from function is particularly strong here," the winter 1992 issue of Metalsmith magazine said of Zellinger's winning entry.

The competition challenges student designers/craftspersons to create innovative and trend-setting ideas by combining design and craftsmanship in flatware, holloware, jewelry, fine art and sculpture. Major sponsors were Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp. and Silver Trust International.



photos by DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Fu Chen holds a tiny Buddha sculpture he made that contains an even tinier Buddha figure. The smaller figure is inside the hole in the Buddha's stomach.

A fine line

Rare talent makes micro sculpture

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

Looking at a pearl, most people would see only a tiny orb. Fu Chen sees a wide canvas on which to work.



A nickel shows the small size of one of a row of elephants carved by Fu Chen.

Chen is a master of the ancient Chinese art of micro sculpture. He is one of only five or six people so skilled in all of his home country, China. He has carved delicate works on, or no bigger than, such objects as a pearl or a grain of rice.

"It was a hobby ever since I was young," said Chen, an engineer at the Shanghai Automotive Repair and Assembly Co. who now lives in Australia. He brought samples of his talent when he came to visit his brother in West Bloomfield recently.

THE mini-masterworks were presented different ways — some encased in clear containers, others in the open. Their size was small, their beauty overwhelming. You needed a magnifying glass to see some of them, but you had no trouble appreciating the talent and tradition involved.

Holding a magnifying glass to a pearl, a scene of a panda and trees sprang into view. A crucifix measured about 1/4 inch — called the smallest crucifix sculpture in the world. A tiny carved vase bore a colorful flower; an ivory

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Watercolors blossom with amaryllis art

Exhibitions, 6D

By Linda Ann Chomin
special writer

It's called "Creativity — 21 Artists Paint an Amaryllis," a watercolor exhibition by Visual Arts Association of Livonia students of Farmington Hills artist Edee Joppich.

And it's on display through Feb. 28 in the Farmington Community Library, 23550 Liberty, at State, in downtown Farmington.

The 21 amaryllis paintings are the results of an exercise in creativity.

"I put the flower down, told them to personalize it, put it in a particular setting, give it an ambience, a contemporary, an Oriental feeling, then to create a border to create a theme," said Joppich in an interview in the library's quiet room. "Some chose a theme, some chose a mood."

Zebra, hummingbirds, stained glass, Matisse-like wallpaper, an Irish castle and countryside in the mist differentiate and individualize the 21 watercolors, and, in so doing, manifest the soul of the artist.

"I asked them to put a little bit of themselves into the piece," Joppich said. "It came together as to what creativity is all about. We're interpreting nature, not copying it."

THE WATERCOLORS, painted in Joppich's "Creative Approach To Watercolor" class offered through the Visual Arts Association of Livonia last spring, illustrate the artist's dedication to continual growth.

The real motivation to create comes from within the artist's soul. They're all committed to their art and developing their talent. That's what characterizes our classes at VAAL," Joppich said.

Painting skills of Joppich's student artists range from 30 years' experience to those picking up a brush for the very first time.

"Sometimes there's a connotation of beginners because they're students. Some of them have been showing nationally. We're all students forever searching," Joppich said.

VAAL president Eileen Bibby of Livonia focuses on a Dutch theme in the "Bella Donna" watercolor resulting from Joppich's class. Her paintings, with some 30 odd years behind each stroke, were recently included in a watercolor show at the Scarab Club in Detroit.

"Since the bulbs are grown in Holland, I used a Dutch-influenced pot to individualize it. I personalize everything I paint," Bibby said.

BLUE WINDMILLS accent the off-white ceramic pot. The luminosity and delicacy of the pot's glaze mirrors the amaryllis's blooms. The upward thrusting lines of the leaves lead the eye to the brilliant flowers.

Joppich teaches students about color and composition in the VAAL

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Women in art lauded at OCC

The Women in Art Project, co-sponsored by Oakland County NOW and the Oakland Community College Womencenter, will present its sixth annual "Women in Art — Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" exhibition from Feb. 27 through March 20 at the Smith Theatre, at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus, on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

The opening reception and awards presentation for art and poetry will take place at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27. The Dance Gallery '92 Awards will be presented after a performance Saturday, Feb. 29.

This interdisciplinary and multimedia celebration of the arts will be a professional showcase for women's art, providing a networking forum and an opportunity for OCC students and the general public to view and experience the work of women artists.

THE CELEBRATION is comprised of three distinct artistic presentations in the Smith Theatre and Gallery: the art exhibit and sale, Dance Gallery '92 and Poetry in the Gallery.

The exhibit provides women a vehicle and space to compete, show and sell their work.

MaryAnn Williamson, associate curator of 20th century art at the Detroit Institute of Arts, will jury the 1992 exhibit. This year approximately 65 pieces will be jury-selected and the Best of Show will be featured on this year's art show catalogue cover.

DANCE GALLERY '92 jurors were Lisa Nowak, choreographer, founding artistic director of the Harding Dance Company, and Jordan Ivanov-Ericson, former soloist with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.

Dance Gallery '92, a concert featuring the award-winning works of six Michigan women choreographers, will take place at 8 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, Feb. 27 and 29, in the Smith Theatre. Tickets will be available at the door. General admission is \$8, students and seniors \$5. For information, call 477-7700.

Laurie Elsenhower, Elsenhower Dance Ensemble, Christine Knight, choreographer, visual arts media and performance; Paula Kramer, artistic director, Detroit Dance Collective; Barbara Selinger, co-artistic director, Detroit Dance Collective; Whitley Setrakian, artistic director, Whitley Setrakian and People Dancing; and Lindsey Thomas, Western Michigan University dance faculty, will present their work.

Each artist is recognized for her outstanding original choreographic work and will receive an award after the Feb. 29 concert.

POETRY in the Gallery is an informal evening forum for poets to read their works. A reception after the reading will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, in the Smith Theatre Gallery. The 1992 poetry juror will be Gloria House.

Dance Gallery '92 is funded in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts.

Serve up camera artistry under glass

photography

Monte Nagler



your subject and capture the exciting results on film.

A tripod will support your camera as you hold the glass upright with one hand and depress the cable release with the other. You can even devise a simple means of supporting the glass if you choose.

If the glass is rippled or frosted or has a strong texture, the subject has to be fairly close to it. If it is too far back, the subject will become indistinct or too distorted.

Usually, subjects that work well through glass are those with simple shapes and that are readily identifiable. A simple shell, vase or arrangement of flowers will work well.

REGARDING FOCUSING, you have two choices. First, a small aperture will keep both the glass and subject in focus. Second, a large aperture will enable you to focus sharply on either the glass or the subject while blurring the other.

Each way will produce quite different results. If your camera has depth-of-field preview, you'll be able to see the depth you want. Watch out for unwanted reflections.

You can usually avoid them by a slight adjustment in the angle of the glass. In some cases, a polarizing filter will work.

EXPOSURE is easy. Just let your camera's through-the-lens meter do its thing. It automatically will take into account any colored or heavily textured glass.

You can create some interesting special effects yourself, too. Smear some soapy lather on a piece of clear glass for a truly dramatic effect. Or try shooting through a water-spattered window, compliments of either your garden hose or a rainy day.

Monte Nagler is a professional photographer based in Farmington Hills.



This chambered nautilus shell took on a dramatic underwater appearance after Monte Nagler put a piece of textured shower door glass between the camera lens and the subject.